

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 /057 W  
-----035866 062023Z /75

O R 061834Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7039  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, NU  
SUBJECT: RETURN OF THE TWELVE

REF: MANAGUA 2932

1. TEN MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF TWELVE RETURNED TO NICARAGUA ON 5 JULY, LANDING AT LAS MERCEDES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT APPROXIMATELY 1:30 PM VIA COPA AIRLINES FROM SAN JOSE. A MODERATE-SIZED CROWD ESTIMATED BY POLOFF AT 5,000 - 7,000 WAS ON HAND TO GREET THEM. ALTHOUGH OTHER SOURCES ESTIMATED A LARGER CROWD SIZE; (20,000 ACCORDING TO RADIO MIL), A SIMILAR ESTIMATE OF 5,000 WAS MADE BY EDUARDO CHAMORRO, WHO WAS THE ARCHITECT OF THE AIRPORT AND IS POLITICAL SECRETARY OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY (PCN).

2. OF THE ELEVEN MEMBERS OF THE "TWELVE" EXPECTED (FELIPE MANTICA HAD EARLIER DISASSOCIATED HIMSELF FROM THE GROUP - REFTTEL), ONLY TEN ARRIVED. ARTURO CRUZ, FOR AS YET UNKNOWN REASONS, REPORTEDLY IS STILL IN THE U.S. THE ARRIVAL OF "THE TWELVE" WAS UNEVENTFUL. THE NATIONAL GUARD (GN) KEPT A LOW PROFILE AND NO ONE IN THE CROWD DID  
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ANYTHING TO PROVOKE TROUBLE BEYOND PAINTING PRO FSLN AND SOCIALIST PARTY SLOGANS ON THE INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR WALLS OF THE AIRPORT.

3. AFTER SPEECHES AT THE AIRPORT, THERE WAS A MOTORCADE TO MASAYA. ALONG THE WAY, ONLY ONE INCIDENT OCCURRED. THE GN DISLODGED A GROUP OF STUDENTS FROM ONE OF THE FEW REPORTEDLY COMMANDEERED BUSES WITH TEARGAS AND SHOTS IN THE AIR. FLEEING STUDENTS DID SOME DAMAGE

TO AT LEAST ONE NEARBY COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT.

4. DURING THE ENTIRE DAY, THE ONLY CASUALTY REPORTS WERE OF A MAN FAINTING, A BOY HURTING HIMSELF GETTING ON TO A BUS, AND A GN OFFICER SLIGHTLY INJURED IN MASAYA BY A BOMB THROWN BY STUDENTS. NOVEDADES REPORTS FOUR ARRESTS AS A RESULT OF THE BOMB THROWING INCIDENT AND ANOTHER SIX PERSONS FOR OTHER REASONS.

5. RADIO STATIONS BROADCAST THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE, THE CAVALCADE, AND SPEECHES THROUGHOUT THE DAY WITHOUT ANY APPLICATION OF THE RADIO AND TELEVISION CODE TO SUSPEND THEIR TRANSMISSIONS.

6. COMMENT: 5 JULY WAS A MODEL OF CIVIC ACTION FOR NICARAGUA. BOTH THE DEMONSTRATORS AND THE GN EXERCISED RESTRAINT AND INTELLIGENCE IN DEALING WITH THE SITUATION. CNEL. FRANKLYN WHEELOCK, AIRPORT ADMINISTRATOR, WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF AIRPORT SECURITY, REPEATEDLY TOLD POLOFF OF HIS DESIRE TO AVOID INJURIES. MANY ORGANIZERS OF THE DEMONSTRATION, INCLUDING UDEL PRESIDENT RAFAEL CORDOBA RIVAS, AND MDN LEADER, ALFONSO ROBELO CALLEJAS, CONTINUALLY CALLED FOR RESPONSIBLE, NON-VIOLENT ACTION. FURTHER ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED FOR "THE TWELVE" ON 6 JULY AND IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE POPULAR PARTICIPATION ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR RETURN CAN BE MAINTAINED. IT APPEARS THE PERIOD OF GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH THE EVENT HAS PASSED.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, PERSONNEL TRAVEL, DISSIDENT FACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MANAGU03062  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780278-0023  
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**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 MANAGUA 2932  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2105412  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RETURN OF THE TWELVE  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, SHUM, NU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/a170827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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